

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: PAUL C. McAfee, M.D.  
For: METAL-BACKED UHMWPE ROD SLEEVE SYSTEM PRESERVING SPINAL  
MOTION  
5 Filed: herewith

Serial No.: N/A Art Unit: N/A Examiner: N/A

ABSTRACT

A spinal rod sleeve system comprises attachment anchors having a plastic (preferably UHMWPE) sleeve which at least partially encircles a spinal rod, so as to allow a vertebra to slide cephalad or caudad along the spinal rod sleeve system. Preferably, said sleeve has a metal backed exterior surface, said rod has a hard outer surface suitable for gliding within said sleeve. The system helps preserve range of motion following spinal surgery.